

Legal Notice 201 of 2010 – Malta Government Gazette No. 18,577 – 9th April, 2010
Amended by:
Legal Notice 206 of 2013 – Malta Government Gazette No. 19,111 – 19 July 2013
Legal Notice 200 of 2019 – Malta Government Gazette No. 20,248 – 13 August 2019

**EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)**

**Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University
Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the
Degree of Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies
under the auspices of the Institute for Islands and Small States**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon him by articles 74 (5) and 75 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following bye-laws made by the Board of the Institute for Islands and Small States in virtue of the powers conferred upon it by article 81 (1) of the said Act and which have been approved by the Senate of the University of Malta as required by article 81 (2) of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These bye-laws may be cited as the Bye-Laws of 2010 in terms of the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008 for the degree of Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies under the auspices of the Institute for Islands and Small States.

(2) In these bye-laws, unless the context otherwise requires –

"the Board" means the Board of the Institute for Islands and Small States;

"the Course" means the programme of study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies;

"the Degree" means the degree of Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies;

"the Postgraduate Diploma" means the Postgraduate Diploma in Islands and Small States Studies; and

"the Principal Regulations" means the General Regulations for University Postgraduate Awards, 2008.

Applicability

2. These bye-laws shall be applicable for courses commencing in October 2009 or later.

Requirements for Admission

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of:

(a) a Bachelor's degree with at least Second Class (Honours) or Category II in an area of study relevant to the major area selected by applicants; or

(b) a qualification deemed by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, to be equivalent to the qualification listed in sub-paragraph (a); or

(c) in exceptional cases the Admissions Board, on the recommendation of the Board, may admit into the Course applicants not in possession of a Bachelor's degree, provided that it is satisfied that such applicants are in possession of other academic or professional qualifications and experience that together are deemed to be comparable to the level of a first degree.

(2) The admission of applicants whose first degree or professional qualifications and experience is not in the major area of study chosen by them shall be made after an interview during which their ability to successfully complete the Course with profit shall be assessed.

(3) The interviewing board appointed by the Board shall be composed of at least three members.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2019 or later:

3. (1) The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of a Bachelor's degree with at least Second Class (Honours) or Category II in an area of study deemed relevant by the Board.

(2) In exceptional cases the Admissions Board, on the recommendation of the Board, may admit into the Course applicants not in possession of a Bachelor's degree, provided that it is satisfied that such applicants are in possession of other academic or professional qualifications and experience that together are deemed to be comparable to the level of a first degree.

(3) The admission of applicants under paragraph (2) of this bye-law shall be made after an interview during which their ability to successfully complete the Course with profit shall be assessed.

(4) The interviewing board appointed by the Board shall be composed of at least three members.

(5) Eligible applicants may register as visiting students for individual study-units and obtain credit for them. Should they be accepted to join the Course within seven years from following the first study-unit, the Board may allow the transfer of these credits to the student's academic record for the Course.

(6) In line with the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 9 of the Admissions Regulations, applicants who do not satisfy the requirements indicated in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this bye-law may be allowed to follow individual study-units but shall not be allowed to sit for the assessment of the study-units, provided the lecturer concerned poses no objection thereto and is satisfied that the individual has the necessary academic background to follow the study-unit with profit.

Course Duration

4. The Course shall extend over three semesters of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

Programme of Study

5. (1) The programme of study shall comprise study-units to which a total of 90 credits are assigned, of which 60 credits are assigned to taught study-units and 30 credits are assigned to the dissertation study-unit.

(2) Students who obtain the 60 credits assigned to the taught study-units with an average mark of at least 50% and do not proceed with the Course, or having proceeded do not successfully complete the dissertation, shall be eligible for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma.

(3) The programme of study shall be published after approval by Senate, normally not less than eight months prior to the commencement of the Course.

The following paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) shall be deleted for courses commencing in October 2019 or later:

(4) The taught component of the Course shall consist of study-units in the following areas of study: Economics, Management, Education, Environmental Studies, Public Policy and other areas as the Board may stipulate, provided that the Board may limit the areas of study offered. These study-units shall be designed so as to have a focus on issues related to islands and small states.

(5) Students shall choose one major area of study by following study-units for which 40 ECTS credits shall be assigned in that area of study and one minor area of study to which at least 20 ECTS credits are assigned.

(6) The Course may also be offered by “distance tuition” following approval by Senate.

Assessment and Progress

6. (1) The assessment of each taught study-unit shall be completed by the end of the semester in which the teaching of the study-unit is held.

(2) Students who in any academic year fail in the assessment of not more than 20 credits for taught study-units, if following the full-time Course, or not more than 10 credits if following the part-time Course, shall be given the opportunity to re-sit the failed assessments at the first practicable opportunity, as determined by the Board.

(3) Students who fail in more than the number of credits permitted under paragraph (2) of this bye-law, or students who after re-assessment fail to obtain credit for any study-unit, shall be deemed to have failed the Course.

Dissertation

7. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 30,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

Applicable for courses commencing in October 2019 or later:

7. (1) Students shall be required to submit an individual dissertation of approximately 20,000 words in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Board.

(2) Work on the dissertation shall be undertaken during the third semester of the Course. Each student shall be assigned a supervisor who shall provide guidance and advice on a regular basis during the period of study.

(3) A provisional title of the dissertation and a detailed research proposal shall be submitted to the Board for approval by the beginning of the second semester.

8. (1) Students shall be required to have regular contact with their supervisor.

(2) Supervisors shall submit to the Board progress reports for each student under their supervision at the end of each semester of studies, whether the student is following the Course on a full-time or a part-time basis. Such reports may include a recommendation to either (a) extend the period of study in order to enable

the student to complete the dissertation; or (b) terminate studies prematurely if the supervisor deems this to be proper in the circumstances, provided that:

(i) the extension of the study period referred to in (a) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Principal Regulations; and

(ii) the Board may not terminate studies prematurely according to (b) until it has first given the student a chance to be heard.

Classification of the Awards

9. The Final Weighted Average Mark for the purpose of the classification of the Postgraduate Diploma and of the Degree shall be based on the results obtained in all the components of the programme of study, all credits being weighted equally.

Special Provisions for Part-Time Courses

10. The provisions of the foregoing bye-laws shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to courses followed on a part-time basis, and subject to such changes as may reasonably be deemed by the Board as necessary due to the part-time nature of the Course.

Repeal

11. The Regulations of 2000 for the degree of Master of Arts in Islands and Small States Studies under the auspices of the Institute for Islands and Small States, published as Legal Notice 175 of 2000, shall be deemed to cease to be in force as from 1st October 2009, provided that students registered for this course before 1st October 2009 shall continue to be governed by the regulations that were in force at the time of their joining the course.